

# Human Trafficking: A Maryland Perspective

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## Objectives

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- Review of human trafficking laws and definitions
- Human trafficking in Maryland
- Risk factors
- Changing the language
- Responding to suspected trafficking



## Scope of the Problem

Traffickers target children as young as 12-14 years old. (U.S. Department of Justice)

In 2013, 1 out of every 7 endangered runaways reported to NCMEC was likely a child sex trafficking victim

An estimated 100,000 children are at risk for sexual exploitation every year (NCMEC)



Source: MHTTF Victim Services Committee, Human Trafficking PowerPoint, July 2014

## Why Maryland?

- I-95 corridor , I-270, I-70, Rt. 15, Rt. 1, Rt. 198
- International Airports
- Ideal central location on the trafficking circuit
- Demand: Tourism, Casinos, Sporting Events, and Conventions.
- Socio-economic Conditions



Source: MHTTF Victim Services Committee, DJS DMST Training, March 2013

## Laws and Definitions



## What is Human Trafficking?

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*The buying & selling of humans.*



## Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

- (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt form such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** bondage, or slavery.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Sec. 103(8)(A-B), Pub. L. No. 106-386 (2000).  
Note: This definition is not the criminal statute



## Force, Fraud, Coercion

### Force:

- Physical restraint, bodily harm (physical or sexual), or confinement, starvation

### Fraud:

- Deceitful employment offers or work conditions, false promises, or withholding wages

### Coercion:

- Threats of serious harm, bodily harm against any person, abuse of legal process, withholding legal documents, creating a climate of fear



## Maryland Human Trafficking Law 2007

§ 11-303. Human trafficking.

(1) A person may not knowingly:

- (i) take or cause another to be taken to any place for prostitution;
- (ii) place, cause to be placed, or harbor another in any place for prostitution;
- (iii) persuade, induce, entice, or encourage another to be taken to or placed in any place for prostitution;



Source: MHTTF Victim Services Committee, DJS DMST Training, March 2013

## Maryland Child Abuse and Neglect Law

Md Family Law Code Ann. 5-701 Definitions

(x) Sexual Abuse

(2) Sexual Abuse includes:

(i) allowing or encouraging a child to engage in:

- 1. Obscene photography, films, poses, or similar activity
- 2. Pornographic photography, films, poses, or similar activity; or
- 3. Prostitution

(ii) human trafficking



Source: MHTTF Victim Services Committee, DJS DMST Training, March 2013

## Where Does Trafficking Take Place?

- Street prostitution
- Brothels
- Massage Parlors
- Internet (Backpage.com)
- Hotels/Motels Spas
- Strip Clubs
- Pornography
- Homes/Apartment Buildings

Movement is not required to be defined as trafficking



Source: MHTTF Victim Services Committee, DJS DMST Training, March 2013

## The Making of a Girl



*The Making of a Girl*. Produced by Jillian Buckley and Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. Narrated by Rachel Lloyd. New York, NY: 2006.

## Who's at risk?

Anyone can be a target, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, parent involvement, etc. However, traffickers do target marginalized children and vulnerable young adults.

High-Risk Indicators Include:

- Runaway and homeless youth
- Youth with chronic truancy history
- Victims of sexual and physical abuse and domestic violence
- Youth involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- LGBTQ youth
- People with friends or family involved in the commercial sex industry
- Underserved and impoverished youth
- Substance abuse (individual or within family)
- Undocumented immigrants
- Developmentally or intellectually delayed individuals



## Trafficking Has Many Faces

### Familial Trafficking

- Love, loyalty toward family
- Fear of Child Protective Services
- Feelings of shame, embarrassment
- Guilt about interfering with family "needs"

### Boys & Young Men

- Additional stigma & shame
- Societal expectations

### LGBTQ Youth & Young Adults

- Lack of acceptance/support
- Less likely to be reported missing
- Higher rates of homelessness
- Survival sex



## Activity: Power of Words



## Changing the Language

### Prostitute

- Places blame on child victim rather than recognizing the perpetrator
- Insult/derogatory term with negative connotations
- A bad kid that has made poor “choices”
- Punishable – juvenile delinquent
- A label with a long-lasting stigma

### Trafficking Victim/Sexually Exploited Person

- Recognizes that a child cannot developmentally, socially, or legally make a “choice” in commercial sex
- Defines what has happened to the individual, rather than labeling them
- Identifies a victim as a person in need of support and services
- Signifies the existence of a perpetrator and calls for a criminal justice response for that perpetrator





## Why don't they just leave?

*A Pimp can be anyone person. The world isn't the way it use to be. In the past it was some one who drew the attention of youth by Glamor. Glamor isn't nessary anymore. This person can be your neighbor who shows you attention by listening to you then using leverage against you to be extorted and abused*

- Severe emotional, physical, sexual violence
- Fear
- Limited to no knowledge of resources
- Shame/Guilt
- Trauma Bonds



## Impact of the Trauma

- PTSD
- Triggers
- Trauma bonds/Stockholm Syndrome
- Depression, anxiety, personality disorders
- View/beliefs about world, self, others, relationships
- Cycle of change
- History of childhood sexual abuse and/or physical trauma, and it's impact on the present
  - Normalization of unhealthy relationships
  - Distorted notion of love
  - Victim blaming



## Red Flags

- Older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Frequent truancy
- Frequently running away, “couch surfing”
- Access to new/expensive clothing & accessories
- Bruises, broken bones, multiple injuries, or other injuries
- STDs/STIs
- History of multiple pregnancies
- Unsure of address
- Unsure of last medical exam
- New tattoos (crown, names)
- Fearful/anxious about upsetting another person
- Sudden changes in mood
- Numerous inconsistencies in their story
- Unable to answer questions regarding whereabouts
- Has a ‘friend’ or ‘boyfriend’ that wants to accompany them into the exam room and/or attempts to speak on their behalf
- No identification



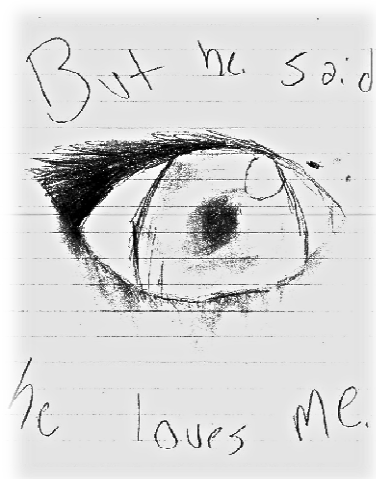
## Challenges to Identification



- Feelings of judgment and stigma
- Lack of understanding about trauma bonds to traffickers
- Reluctance or inability to self-identify as a victim
- Fear of retribution and threats from trafficker
- Language and cultural barriers
- Normalized abuse
- Distrust of authority



## Meet Them Where They Are



- Non-judgmental approach
- Empathy & Empowerment
- Remind yourself what it's like to be in their shoes
- Respect their need from privacy
- Reassure them that their feelings, questions thoughts are normal and valid
- Mirror their language, but do not apply labels
- Learn about trauma and it's impact



## Responding to the Disclosure

- Remind the individual it's not his/her fault
- Be aware of your own physical and verbal reactions
- Avoid interrogating the individual
- Don't question the facts or order of events
- Remain open-minded
- If the patient is a minor and you have to make a CPS report, engage the youth in the process
- Express affirmation & acceptance
- Assess the individual's readiness to change



## What Can You Do?

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- If you suspect trafficking, make a report
- Create a list of local low-barrier resources to share with patients
- Coordinate trainings for your staff and community partners on human trafficking and trauma
- Reach out to your leadership team about adopting the screen protocol developed by the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force



## Contact Information

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**National Human Trafficking Resource Center**

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